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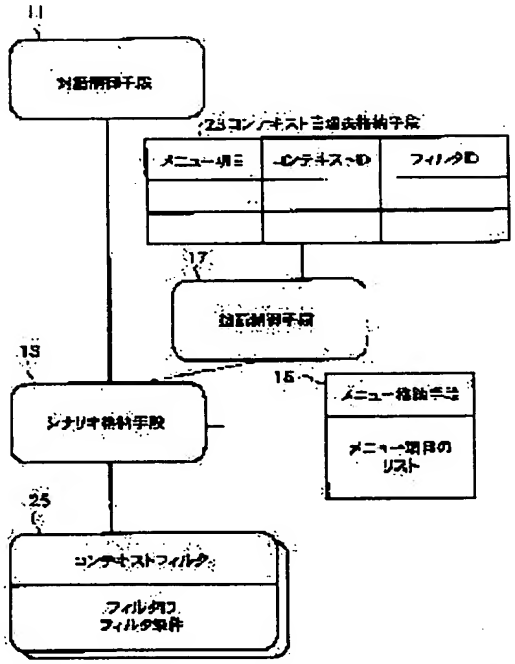
4) CATALOG CONNECTION DEVICE AND METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM RECORDING CATALOG)NNECTION PROGRAM

7)Abstract:
ROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To eliminate the need of answering to erlapping category selection and questions, to improve the efficiency of a ɔcedure and to smooth it by transferring a menu item of a catalog device a poststage to the catalog device in a preceding stage and presenting it one menu item of one catalog device.
)LUTION: A connection control means 17 of an S catalog device in a ststage adds a menu item name transferred from an N catalog device in ɔreceding stage, a context ID and a filter ID to a context management ɔle of a context management table storage means 23. When a specified ɜnu item on the N catalog device is selected, a retrieval request is issued the S catalog device. The scenario of the S catalog device activates a ntext filter 25 designated by the filter ID for a designated menu item me and sends a suited menu item to the N catalog device. In the N talog device, the returned menu item name is shaped coincidently with own layout and presented to a user.



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1 the drawings, any words are not translated.

AIMS

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aim(s)]
aim 1] The service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for showing a service item and making a
:r choose is connected to two or more cascades. It is the catalog coupling device which performs service guidance
vigation) to the user who accessed the catalog equipment of this service guide apparatus. Omit the menu item which
catalog equipment of the latter part which exhibited the menu item to the menu item of the catalog equipment of the
ceding paragraph accessed previously by the user overlaps, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is
nbined. While giving and forming Filter ID in latter catalog equipment so that the menu item of latter catalog
ıipment may be taken over to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph that it should show like one menu
n of one catalog equipment A context filter means to return Filter ID to the catalog equipment of the preceding
'agraph, A context initialization means to initialize the context for operating said context filter means by making said
ıibited menu item, Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter, When a specific menu item is chosen
;election of the menu item in the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, A retrieval demand means to perform
:trieval demand while specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog
ıipment, If latter catalog equipment receives said retrieval demand, a context management table will be searched for
d parameter to a key. A filter ID detection means to detect the filter ID of a context filter means which should be
rted, A starting means to start the context filter means specified with said detected filter ID in latter catalog
ıipment, A return means for this started context filter means to search the range of a menu item specified by the menu
n using the retrieval conditions registered beforehand, and to return the suiting menu item to the catalog equipment
the preceding paragraph, The catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph is a catalog coupling device
ıracterized by having a presentation means to operate orthopedically according to a self layout and to show a user
d returned menu item.
.aim 2] The service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for showing a service item and making a
:r choose is connected to two or more cascades. It is the catalog connection approach of performing service guidance
:he user who accessed the catalog equipment of this service guide apparatus. Omit the menu item which the catalog
ıipment of the latter part which exhibited the menu item to the menu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding
'agraph accessed previously by the user overlaps, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is combined. While
'ing Filter ID and forming the context filter means for taking over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the
alog equipment of the preceding paragraph that it should show like one menu item of one catalog equipment in latter
alog equipment Filter ID is returned to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph. Said exhibited menu item,
e context for operating said context filter means by making Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a
'ameter is initialized. When a specific menu item is chosen in selection of the menu item in the catalog equipment of
: preceding paragraph, If a retrieval demand is performed and latter catalog equipment receives said retrieval demand,
:cifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment Search a context
nagement table for said parameter at a key, and the filter ID of a context filter means which should be started is
:ected. The context filter means specified with said detected filter ID in latter catalog equipment is started. This
rted context filter means searches the range of a menu item specified by the menu item using the retrieval conditions
;istered beforehand. It is the catalog connection approach which returns the suiting menu item to the catalog
ıipment of the preceding paragraph, and is characterized by for the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph
:rating orthopedically according to a self layout, and showing a user said returned menu item.
laim 3] The service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for showing a service item and making a
:r choose is connected to two or more cascades. It is the record medium which recorded the catalog connection
)gram which performs service guidance to the user who accessed the catalog equipment of this service guide
)aratus. Omit the menu item which the catalog equipment of the latter part which exhibited the menu item to the

nu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph accessed previously by the user overlaps, and the menu n.of both catalog equipment is combined. While giving Filter ID and forming the context filter means for taking over menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph that it should show like : menu item of one catalog equipment in latter catalog equipment Filter ID is returned to the catalog equipment of the ceding paragraph. Said exhibited menu item, The context for operating said context filter means by making Context Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. When a specific menu item is chosen in selection of the nu item in the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, If a retrieval demand is performed and latter catalog ıipment receives said retrieval demand, specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter alog equipment Search a context management table for said parameter at a key, and the filter ID of a context filter ans which should be started is detected. The context filter means specified with said detected filter ID in latter alog equipment is started. This started context filter means searches the range of a menu item specified by the menu n using the retrieval conditions registered beforehand. It is the record medium which returned the suiting menu item he catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and recorded the catalog connection program characterized by for catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph operating orthopedically according to a self layout, and showing a r said returned menu item.

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TAILED DESCRIPTION

etailed Description of the Invention]
01]
eld of the Invention] This invention relates to the catalog coupling device and approach of performing service ection processing (navigation) in a video on demand (VOD), on-line shopping, etc. Furthermore, the service guide paratus equipped with the catalog equipment for showing a service item and making a user choose in detail is nected to two or more cascades. Omit the menu item which latter catalog equipment overlaps to the menu item of the alog equipment of the preceding paragraph accessed previously by the user, and the menu item of both catalog ipment is combined. Show like one menu item of one catalog equipment, a user is made to choose a desired service n, and it is related with the record medium which recorded the catalog coupling device and approach of performing vice guidance (navigation), and the catalog connection program.
02]
escription of the Prior Art] As the system configuration of this kind of catalog coupling device is shown in drawing it has two or more service guide apparatus 1 and 3 connected to the cascade, and the user terminal 5 is connected to se service guide apparatus 1 and 3 through the communication line. Moreover, the service guide apparatus 1 is med in service guidance contractor System 7, and the service guide apparatus 3 is formed in service provision ipment 9.
03] The service guide apparatus 1 and 3 show a user terminal 5 a service item, respectively, and have two or more alog equipments which have the function to start the item chosen by a user's selection. In addition, the catalog ipment with which the service guide apparatus 1 is equipped will be called N catalog equipment, and the catalog ipment with which the service guide apparatus 3 is equipped will be called S catalog equipment. N catalog ipment is catalog equipment for making a user choose a service provision contractor and its service item, and S alog equipment is catalog equipment for making the detail of the service item which a service provision contractor ers choose.
04] Next, the operation of a catalog coupling device by which a system configuration is carried out in this way is plained with reference to the example of the hierarchical menu item of the tree structure of N catalog equipment wn in drawing 2 , and S catalog equipment. In addition, drawing 2 shows the example of shopping catalog ipment.
05] A user accesses the service guide apparatus 1 from a user terminal 5, chooses N catalog equipment formed in this vice guide apparatus 1, and chooses A company and the service item which are a service provision contractor cording to a selection sequence which is called "personal computer" -> "desktop" ->"tower" -> "A company" from N alog equipment which has the hierarchical menu of the tree structure as shown in the first half of drawing 2 (step S1).

06] N catalog equipment of the service guide apparatus 1 starts S catalog equipment through the service guide paratus 3 equipped with S catalog equipment of A company which is a service provision contractor, after selection of service provision contractor by the user and a service item is completed (step S2).
07] S catalog equipment of the service guide apparatus 3 has the hierarchical menu of the tree structure as shown in second half of drawing 2 , and menu selection is performed like -> "desktop" "classified by model" ->"tower" -> "a duct 1" so that it may be shown in the second half of drawing 2 , so that a user may perform desired service and ection of service provision conditions from this S catalog equipment through a user terminal 5, and "the product 1" ich is a desired service item is chosen (step S3). After selection of the service item by the user is completed, S alog equipment of the service guide apparatus 3 starts service provision equipment 9, and a user is provided with vice (step S4).

08] In addition, in the conventional processing mentioned above, although dialogue control with a user moves to the vice guide apparatus 3 from the service guide apparatus 1 when S catalog equipment is started from N catalog ipment, in this case, a user recognizes the difference between the scenario on N catalog equipment, and it on S alog equipment, and the menu item of a new scenario is rechosen.
09]
oblem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The inside of the selection which the user performed on N catalog equipment he conventional technique mentioned above from the difference in the scenario of selection of the service item in N alog equipment and S catalog equipment, Since the service item of S catalog equipment and the selections without ct relation are not taken over to S catalog equipment, when they are seen from a user, they must overlap and reply to tegory and a question of the same kind with both catalog equipment, and have the problem of being it being ublesome and inefficient-like.
10] As mentioned above, the user specifically specifies the attribute of the "desktop" as a category of a desired sonal computer, a "tower", etc., etc. on N catalog equipment, but since this information is not taken over to the vice guide apparatus 3 and S catalog equipment, there is a problem that it must choose again.
11] This invention was made in view of the above, the place made into the purpose omits the menu item which rlaps so that a user may not reply to the duplicate category or the duplicate question, catalog equipment combines, l it shows like one menu item of one catalog equipment, and is in offering the record medium which recorded the alog coupling device and the approach of having attained increase in efficiency and carrying out smoothly of cedure, and the catalog connection program.
12]
eans for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, this invention according to claim 1 service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for showing a service item and making a user choose onnected to two or more cascades. It is the catalog coupling device which performs service guidance (navigation) to user who accessed the catalog equipment of this service guide apparatus. Omit the menu item which the catalog ipment of the latter part which exhibited the menu item to the menu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding agraph accessed previously by the user overlaps, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is combined. While ing and forming Filter ID in latter catalog equipment so that the menu item of latter catalog equipment may be taken r to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph that it should show like one menu item of one catalog ipment A context filter means to return Filter ID to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, A context ialization means to initialize the context for operating said context filter means by making said exhibited menu item, ntext ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter, When a specific menu item is chosen in selection of the nu item in the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, A retrieval demand means to perform a retrieval nand while specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment, If latter alog equipment receives said retrieval demand, a context management table will be searched for said parameter to a . A filter ID detection means to detect the filter ID of a context filter means which should be started, A starting ans to start the context filter means specified with said detected filter ID in latter catalog equipment, A return means this started context filter means to search the range of a menu item specified by the menu item using the retrieval ditions registered beforehand, and to return the suiting menu item to the catalog equipment of the preceding agraph, The catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph makes it a summary to have a presentation means to erate orthopedically according to a self layout and to show a user said returned menu item.
13] If it is in this invention according to claim 1, omit the menu item which latter catalog equipment overlaps to the nu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is nbined. The context filter means for taking over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment the preceding paragraph is formed in latter catalog equipment. The context for operating a context filter means by king a menu item, Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. Perform a retrieval mand, specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment, and latter alog equipment searches a context management table. Detect the filter ID of a context filter means which should be rted, and the context filter means specified with this filter ID is started. In order for a context filter means to search range of a menu item, to return the suiting menu item to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and for catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph to double the layout of the returned menu item and to show a user, A r can seem to have chosen the service item with one catalog equipment, needs to reply to neither duplication ection nor a question, and can perform smooth navigation.
14] Moreover, the service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for this invention according to claim resenting a service item, and making a user choose it is connected to two or more cascades. It is the catalog

nection approach of performing service guidance to the user who accessed the catalog equipment of this service de apparatus. Omit the menu item which the catalog equipment of the latter part which exhibited the menu item to menu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph accessed previously by the user overlaps, and the nu item of both catalog equipment is combined. While giving Filter ID and forming the context filter means for ing over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph that it should w like one menu item of one catalog equipment in latter catalog equipment Filter ID is returned to the catalog ipment of the preceding paragraph. Said exhibited menu item, The context for operating said context filter means by king Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. When a specific menu item is chosen selection of the menu item in the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, If a retrieval demand is performed l latter catalog equipment receives said retrieval demand, specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a nu item to latter catalog equipment Search a context management table for said parameter at a key, and the filter ID a context filter means which should be started is detected. The context filter means specified with said detected filter in latter catalog equipment is started. This started context filter means searches the range of a menu item specified by menu item using the retrieval conditions registered beforehand. Returning the suiting menu item to the catalog ipment of the preceding paragraph, the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph makes it a summary to operate hopedically according to a self layout and to show a user said returned menu item.

)15] If it is in this invention according to claim 2, omit the menu item which latter catalog equipment overlaps to the nu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is nbined. The context filter means for taking over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment the preceding paragraph is formed in latter catalog equipment. The context for operating a context filter means by king a menu item, Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. Perform a retrieval nand, specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment, and latter alog equipment searches a context management table. Detect the filter ID of a context filter means which should be rted, and the context filter means specified with this filter ID is started. In order for a context filter means to search range of a menu item, to return the suiting menu item to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and for catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph to double the layout of the returned menu item and to show a user, A r can seem to have chosen the service item with one catalog equipment, needs to reply to neither duplication ection nor a question, and can perform smooth navigation.

)16] Furthermore, the service guide apparatus equipped with the catalog equipment for this invention according to im 3 presenting a service item, and making a user choose it is connected to two or more cascades. It is the record dium which recorded the catalog connection program which performs service guidance to the user who accessed the alog equipment of this service guide apparatus. Omit the menu item which the catalog equipment of the latter part ich exhibited the menu item to the menu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph accessed viously by the user overlaps, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is combined. While giving Filter ID and ming the context filter means for taking over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment of preceding paragraph that it should show like one menu item of one catalog equipment in latter catalog equipment ter ID is returned to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph. Said exhibited menu item, The context for erating said context filter means by making Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. ien a specific menu item is chosen in selection of the menu item in the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, a retrieval demand is performed and latter catalog equipment receives said retrieval demand, specifying the parameter ich contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment Search a context management table for said rameter at a key, and the filter ID of a context filter means which should be started is detected. The context filter ans specified with said detected filter ID in latter catalog equipment is started. This started context filter means rches the range of a menu item specified by the menu item using the retrieval conditions registered beforehand. The ting menu item is returned to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and let it be a summary for the alog equipment of the preceding paragraph to record the catalog connection program which operates orthopedically cording to a self layout and shows a user said returned menu item on a record medium.

)17] If it is in this invention according to claim 3, omit the menu item which latter catalog equipment overlaps to the nu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and the menu item of both catalog equipment is mbined. The context filter means for taking over the menu item of latter catalog equipment to the catalog equipment the preceding paragraph is formed in latter catalog equipment. The context for operating a context filter means by king a menu item, Context ID, Filter ID, and filter conditions into a parameter is initialized. Perform a retrieval mand, specifying the parameter which contains Context ID and a menu item to latter catalog equipment, and latter talog equipment searches a context management table. Detect the filter ID of a context filter means which should be

ted, and the context filter means specified with this filter ID is started. A context filter means searches the range of a nu item, and the suiting menu item is returned to the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph. Since the catalog ıipment of the preceding paragraph is recording the catalog connection program which doubles the layout of the ırned menu item and is shown to a user on the record medium, it can raise the distributivity using this record dium.

18]

nbodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained using a drawing. ıwing 3 is drawing showing the configuration of the catalog equipment formed in the service guide apparatus used the catalog coupling device concerning 1 operation gestalt of this invention. The catalog equipment shown in this wing is formed in the service guide apparatus 1 and 3 in the system configuration of the catalog coupling device ›wn in drawing 1 , and the system configuration of the catalog coupling device shown in drawing 1 can be applied to catalog coupling device of this operation gestalt except for the catalog equipment shown in the service guide ›aratus 1 and 3 at drawing 3 being used. Moreover, the catalog equipment formed in the service guide apparatus 1 is led N catalog equipment, the catalog equipment formed in the service guide apparatus 3 is called S catalog ıipment, N catalog equipment is catalog equipment for making a user choose a service provision contractor and its vice item, and S catalog equipment is catalog equipment for making the detail of the service item which a service vision contractor offers choose.

19] The catalog equipment shown in drawing 3 has a context management table storing means 23 to store the context nagement table which consists of a menu storing means 15 by which the list of the dialogue control means 11, the nario storing means 13, and menu items etc. was stored, the connection control means 17, a menu item, a context ID, lter ID, etc., and the context filter 25.

20] Moreover, the function incorporating the context filter 25 which manages menu item retrieval processing of ing met the scenario of the N catalog equipment which is catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph gave the nario on the S catalog equipment which is latter catalog equipment, and S catalog equipment has built into some N alog equipments in the catalog equipment shown in drawing 3 by establishing the context management table which nages the location which operates the context filter 25 in the connection control means 17 on S catalog equipment.

21] Next, an operation is explained with reference to the flow chart shown in drawing 4 . In drawing 4 , S catalog ıipment opens first the list of menu item names which can register the context filter 25 to N catalog equipment ocessing **]. N catalog equipment publishes the inclusion demand of the context filter 25 to the connection control ans 17 of S catalog equipment [processing **]. The positional information of a context filter stereo or a context filter reo is succeeded as a parameter of this demand, the context filter 25 is acquired from the location specified with the ameter or the parameter, and Filter ID is given and memorized. In addition, Filter ID is returned to N catalog ıipment in order to show what was memorized correctly.

22] N catalog equipment publishes a context initialization demand to the connection control means 17 of S catalog ıipment [processing **]. Four parameters are specified as this demand. The 1st parameter is the menu item name ıibited by processing **, the 2nd parameter is the context ID used as key information at the time of N catalog ıipment starting the context filter 25, the 3rd parameter is the filter ID registered by processing **, and the 4th ameter is the filter conditions for controlling actuation of the context filter 25. In addition, when filter conditions can omitted and it is not specified, the default of context filter 25 self is used.

23] Moreover, the connection control means 17 of S catalog equipment adds a menu item name, Context ID, and ee parameters of Filter ID to the context management table of the context management table storing means 23 among succeeded parameters, and sets retrieval conditions as the context filter 25. N catalog equipment matches and morizes its menu item and Context ID of a scenario.

24] Next, a user starts N catalog equipment and chooses the menu item in accordance with [processing **] and the ›wn scenario [processing **, **]. And the scenario of N catalog equipment advances a retrieval demand to S catalog ıipment ignited by the specific menu item on N catalog equipment having been chosen [processing **]. Two ameters are specified as this demand. The 1st parameter is Context ID and the 2nd parameter is a menu item name. In e, a menu item name is omissible.

25] If S catalog equipment receives said retrieval demand, the context management table of the context management le storing means 23 will be searched for the specified parameter at a key, and the filter ID of the context filter 25 ich should be started will be detected. Here, when the menu item name is omitted, the group of Context ID, all responding menu items, and context filters is found. The scenario of S catalog equipment starts the context filter 25 cified with Filter ID to the specified menu item name. The context filter 25 searches the range of a menu specified by menu item using the retrieval conditions registered beforehand, and sends the suiting menu item to N catalog

ipment [processing **].
26] And with N catalog equipment, according to an own layout, it operates orthopedically, and the menu item name rned from the context filter 25 is shown to a user [processing **].
27] Next, with reference to drawing 5 and drawing 2 , an operation is explained still more concretely. In addition, in explanation, the premises 1-4 shown below are established. A premise 1 shall associate the menu item on N catalog ipment "A company" the "model exception" of A company in drawing 2 . The premise 2 shall exhibit the "model eption" as a menu item name which S catalog equipment of A company can filter register (processing ** of drawing mits). As for the premise 3, the context filter 25 to retrieval condition Q1: "the menu item to the product whose duct type is a "desktop" and whose configuration is a "tower"" is prepared for N catalog equipment. This context er 25 is mounted as software which can operate on the service guide apparatus 3. The procedure of processing [of wing 4] ** and ** of a premise 4 is executed. Filter ID=F1 should be returned from S catalog equipment as a result aving registered the context filter 25 of a premise 3.
28] An operation is explained under the above prerequisite. First, in processing [of drawing 5] **, a context is ialized by assignment parameter value and the context management table of the context management table storing ans 23 will be in the condition of Table 1 shown below. The retrieval conditions Q1 are passed to F1 already istered.
29]
ble 1]

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xt, in processing **-**, a user starts N catalog equipment, receives offer of a scenario from N catalog equipment, and oses a menu like "personal computer" -> "desktop" ->"tower" -> "A company" by the menu item on N catalog ipment. Since the menu item "A company" is related with S catalog equipment of A company from the premise 1, a ieval demand is performed [processing **]. S catalog equipment which received the retrieval demand understands t 25 is the context filterF1 which should be started from the context management table in the condition of Table 1 ntioned above, and starts F1.
30] The menu item which F1 makes the retrieval range subtree below ["classified by model"] the menu item of S alog equipment, and suits the retrieval conditions Q1 is looked for, and it notifies to a scenario that "a product 1" and product 2" correspond. The scenario of N catalog equipment returns this result to N catalog equipment [processing].
31] With N catalog equipment, it edits so that a retrieval result can be displayed with an original layout, and a user is own [processing **]. A user continues selection based on this information.
32]
fect of the Invention] As explained above, according to this invention, omit the menu item which latter catalog ipment overlaps to the menu item of the catalog equipment of the preceding paragraph, and the menu item of both alog equipment is combined. The menu item of latter catalog equipment is taken over to the catalog equipment of the ceding paragraph. Since it shows like one menu item of one catalog equipment, a user seems to have chosen the vice item with one catalog equipment. It is not necessary to reply to the duplicate category selection and the duplicate estion, smooth navigation can be performed, and increase in efficiency and carrying out smoothly of procedure can be ained.

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AWINGS

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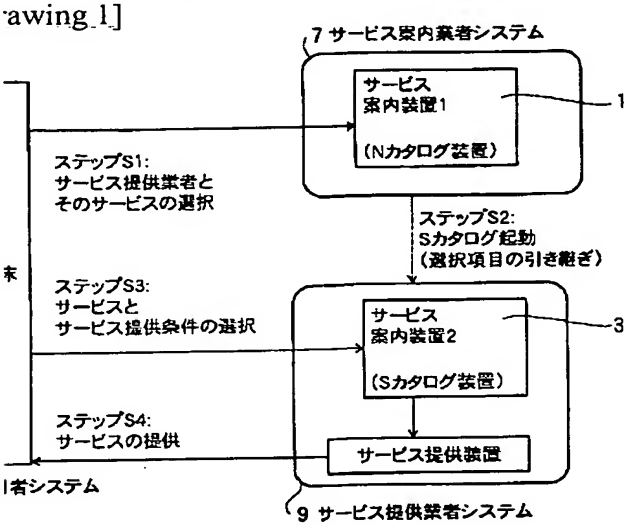
awing 1]



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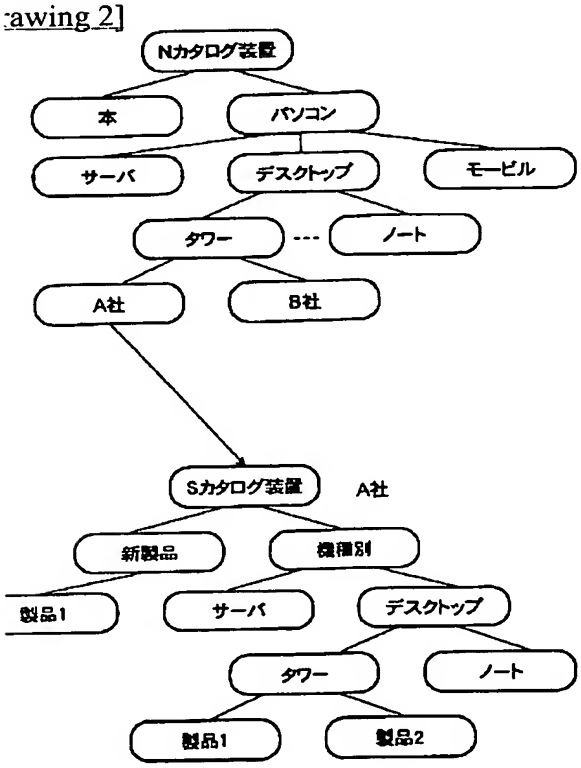

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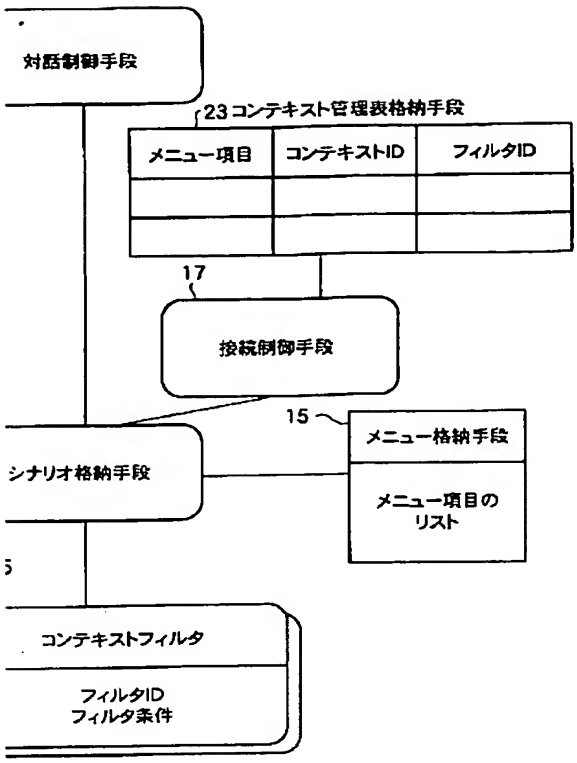

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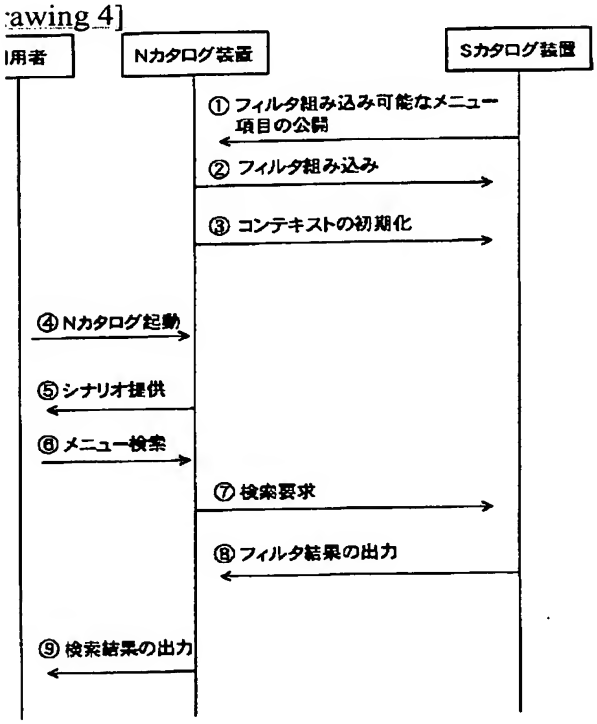

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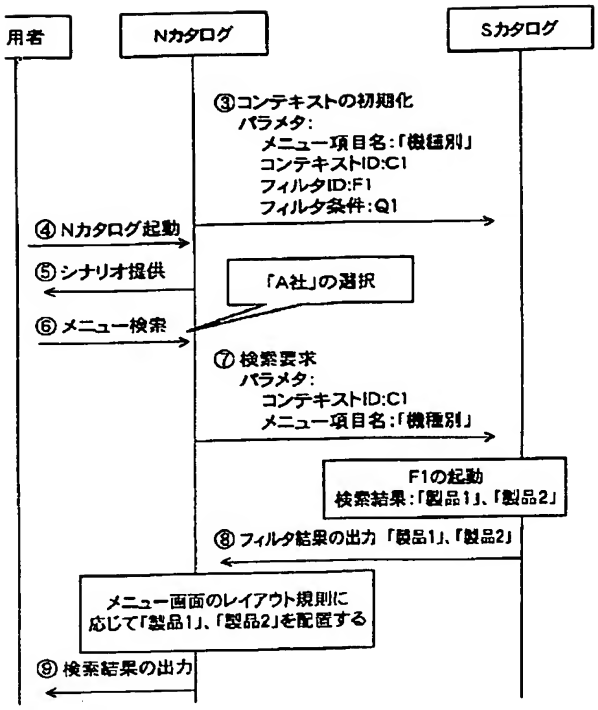

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